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THE  
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ROWLAND B. HOWARD, . . . . . EDITOR

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

IMPORTANT ACTION.

*Mid-Winter Meeting—More Delegates to Paris—The Annexation of Canada—Samoa and Germany—Hayti—France and the Panama Canal—Fortifications—Harrison's Administration—A Lively Meeting.*

The bi-monthly session of the American Peace Society was held at Pilgrim Hall, Jan. 28. After the routine business, reports of committees and reading of foreign correspondence, two additional delegates to the World's Peace Congress at Paris were elected, Warren A. Reed, Esq., of Brockton, and Rev. Geo. W. Cutter, D. D., of Buffalo, N. Y., the latter now travelling in Europe and promoting the cause of international arbitration. The following series of resolutions was submitted, thoroughly discussed *seriatim*, amended, and finally adopted unanimously in the amended form :

*Resolved*, That in pursuance of our mission, viz., to do what is in our power to prevent an appeal to arms for the settlement of international difficulties, we would hereby express our satisfaction at the subsidence of excitement and the absence of new causes of irritation between Great Britain and the United States on the subject of the fisheries; also, the increasingly friendly relations between the people of the United States and Canada, as manifested in propositions emanating from citizens of each country, for the commercial and even the political union of the two countries.

*Resolved*, That as Americans in warm sympathy with the cause of republicanism in France, and moved by a genuine feeling of kindness towards the French people, we should regret to have any misunderstandings arise, and especially that any disturbance of the uniform comity between the two nations should occur, on account of the Panama Canal now in process of construction by citizens of the French republic. We trust that the guarantee of neutrality will remain undisturbed, and that great highway of the nations, if completed, may be safe and free for peaceful purposes to all mankind.

*Resolved*, That the recent accounts of savage warfare carried on by the natives of the island of Samoa, said to have been participated in by the citizens of this and other civilized nations, have caused us pain and anxiety; but

we see no reason why the differences which have arisen under the treaty with Germany and between the citizens of this republic and those of the German empire should not be settled by negotiation or, if necessary, by arbitration. The guarantee of neutrality entered into by treaty between Germany and Great Britain gives us confidence that peace will be restored and a stable government maintained, under which the rights of American citizens and those of other nations will be respected.

*Resolved*, That the civil war in Hayti, involving the interests of our countrymen, and causing bloodshed among the citizens of that island, and throwing discredit upon the ability of that people for self-government, is to us a subject of profound regret; and that we look to the proposed convention of American States at Washington, to which Hayti was invited, to devise measures by which such bloody scenes may be prevented, and the advantages of domestic industry and peaceful commerce be restored and secured.

*Resolved*, That we sincerely rejoice in our country's long exemption from foreign war, the gradual diminution of taxation for military and naval purposes, except for pensions, and the growing disposition of both Government and people to refer international disputes to peaceful arbitration as evidenced in the last message of the President of the United States; and we confidently anticipate that this peaceful policy will continue under the Administration to be inaugurated on the 4th of next March. Not menaced by foreign enemies, it seems to us that our Government wisely declines to imitate those nations of Europe whose people are nearly crushed under the iron heel of militarism.

The discussion was participated in by the president, Hon. E. S. Tobey, Hon. W. E. Sheldon, Rev. A. E. Winship, Rev. D. S. Coles, M. D., Rev. C. B. Smith, Dr. W. M. Cornell, Rev. D. H. Ela, D. D., and Secretary R. B. Howard. The debate called out various opinions as to the desirableness of Canadian annexation, and the settlement of the fisheries question. Sympathy with the dangers that seem to threaten republicanism in France by the concentration of the opposition, especially the anti-German and war elements, on Boulanger, was expressed. The speakers finally inclined to a hopeful view of the situation and declared that the republic would outlive the storm and France not expose herself under a second Louis Napoleon to another cruel and devastating war. If the French nation assume the Panama Canal, it would probably be completed and its existence need lead to no hostility on our part if only the treaty guarantee of neutrality were observed by all parties concerned.

If our country does no more than her duty and claims no more than her treaty rights in Samoa, Germany must concede the latter, especially as she joined England in

guaranteeing the neutrality of the islands. Unless the latter is again "perfidious Albion" she must insist on non-interference in native wars by any foreign powers. The reported giving up of the project for a congress of American States or handing it over to Garrison's administration, it was feared would indefinitely postpone a movement to which many people have looked hopefully to prevent such scenes of bloodshed and robbery as Spanish America and, recently, Hayti have suffered from.

The resolution on taxation for military purposes, especially for immense coast fortifications, a great navy and the 150,000 soldiers necessary to man the new forts and ships was debated, criticised and controverted. The propositions made by the United States army and naval officers before the Beacon Club on the 26th inst. were quoted, especially the \$10,000,000 for the immediate defence of Boston, against an imaginary enemy, and the \$5,000,000,000 proposed to fortify the whole country. The speakers pointed out that our country must then imitate Europe in its taxes and its conscriptions for military purposes, and the policy advised by Washington, and hitherto pursued, be reversed, and America become, like Europe, a great camp, and that, too, with no enemy among the nations of the world.

#### AN IMPROMPTU PEACE MEETING.

In reply to a personal note, the Editor of the ADVOCATE received an envelope adorned with the prettiest picture of school buildings, trees and lawn that we know. The writer, Augustine Jones, President of the Providence Friend's School, which ranks among the first not only in its unequalled site but also in the character of its faculty and pupils, expressed great sympathy with our attempt to reciprocate and repay the visit to America of our friends from over the sea in 1887. He does not believe the people of this country will allow our proposed deputation to the Paris Congress to fail for want of money. But the extempore Peace meeting we must let him describe.

The occasion was the annual alumni dinner, enjoyed together by the graduates of Bowdoin College of Maine, who reside in New York and vicinity. Mr. Jones was there as an honored guest, being President of the Boston Association of the Alumni of the same college. Among the after dinner addresses was one emanating from the city of brotherly love, which criticised in an unfriendly spirit Prof. Thomas C. Upham, formerly of the college above named. The well-known Peace tracts of Prof. Upham were ridiculed as "selling during the civil war at six cents a pound!" As Mr. Jones was the next speaker, the author of that able tract, "War unnecessary," felt constrained to defend the memory and commend the work of one highly honored by nearly all the older graduates. He declared that as with John Brown, the soul of Prof. Upham was still "marching on." The greatest generals of the war, he was glad to see, recognized Peace as the consummation most devoutly wished. The supreme object of both arms and laws is to establish peace. In this line and in all those things which mark modern progress as real and substantial, arms were doing less and less, and some form of arbitration more and more. Two alumni, Gen. Joshua L. Chamberlain who received Lee's surrender at Appomattox, and was subsequently President of the College, and Gen. O. O. Howard now second in command of the U. S. Army, and stationed at New York, followed Mr. Jones with unqualified approval.

The entire meeting appeared to join in the demonstrations of applause, and for the moment it seemed that Mr. Jones had turned the entire festivity into a Peace meeting! It recalled the earlier traditions of the college, when President Appleton was the orator of the Peace Society of Maine, organized by William Ladd; Prof. A. S. Packard, a leading and luminous writer in the *Calumet*, the New York organ of the American Peace society, and John A. Andrew, President of the Bowdoin branch of the same. The storm of civil war drove the leaders and the nation temporarily from the course, but as the needle left undisturbed returns to its pole, so educated men and other leaders of public sentiment are again veering from the ways of force towards those of reason and conscience, as embodied in harmonious laws and arbitral courts.

#### THE WORLD'S UNIVERSAL PEACE CONGRESS FOR 1889.

At a recent conference of English and Continental Peace and Arbitration Societies at Paris the following general order of exercises was recommended to be adopted by the Congress, the exact date of which has not yet been determined, probably the first five days in June.

1. *International Arbitration under various forms.*
2. *Permanent Treaties of Arbitration between any two or more nations.*
3. *Neutralization of rivers, canals, channels, straits, territories and nations.*
4. *The adoption of the principle of Federation by the joint action of States.*
5. *The creation of Courts of Arbitration.*
6. *The means for promoting University Lectures on Arbitration.*
7. *The reform of International Law.*
8. *The basis of an International Code.*
9. *The consideration of practical means whereby law might gradually be substituted for force.*

As it may be presumed that among our readers there may be young persons who on account of want of opportunity are unfamiliar with the discussions and other efforts on the great questions of war and peace, and possibly also those of maturer years who somewhat recently have given their attention to this particular reform, we venture to suggest a few reasons why each of these subjects is of practical importance.

*First.* The subject of Arbitration is comparatively new in many of its applications, and various forms are used in different countries. It is of importance to fix upon some general principles as to the best forms. Who shall the Arbitrators be? Shall their office be permanent and perpetual? What sort of questions are best fitted for this kind of adjustment? Are there any international conflicts involving "honor and interest," which it is inexpedient to refer to arbitration?

*Secondly.* The question of permanent Treaties of Arbitration is still an open one—some prefer to attach an arbitral clause to each treaty as it shall be negotiated. Statesmen object to binding one nation to arbitration in every possible case that may arise. Are such objections valid?

*Thirdly.* Neutralization of rivers, canals, channels, straits, territories and nations. To declare and guarantee the neutrality of the above named is for nations to mutually engage not to interfere or advance any exclusive claim of a national character to their advantage; to defend them from interference and to employ them for no